

SPECIFICATION

HEAT SINK ASSEMBLY WITH RETAINING DEVICE

1. Cross-Reference to Related Application

[0001] This application is related to the copending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/346,968 filed 01/17/03 having the same title, the same applicant and the same assignee with the instant invention, and whose disclosure is incorporated by reference herein.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

2. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to heat sinks and their retention on heat-generating devices such as electronic packages, and more particularly to a heat sink assembly having a retaining device securely retaining a heat sink on a heat-generating device.

3. Description of Prior Art

[0003] Numerous modern electronic devices such as central processing units (CPUs) of computers generate large amounts of heat during operation. The heat must be efficiently removed from the CPU; otherwise, abnormal operation or damage may result. Typically, a retaining device attaches a heat sink on the CPU to remove heat therefrom.

[0004] A common kind of retaining device comprises a retention frame and a clip. The retention frame is mounted on a printed circuit board (PCB), and surrounds a CPU that is also mounted on the PCB. The retention frame forms a pair of ears at opposite sides thereof. The clip comprises a central pressing portion pressing a heat sink onto the CPU, and a pair of clamping legs depending from opposite ends of the pressing portion. The legs each define an opening therein, the openings of the legs engagingly receiving the ears

of the retention frame. Thus, the heat sink is resiliently attached on the CPU to remove heat therefrom.

[0005] With the rapid development of the electronics technology, CPUs are now able to process signals at unprecedented high speeds. As a result, CPUs can generate huge amounts of heat. To maintain an acceptably low operating temperature of a high-speed CPU, a heat sink must have great heat dissipation capability. A popular way to achieve this is to simply provide heat sinks that are larger and heavier than their predecessors. However, many conventional retaining devices are not strong enough to securely retain a large, heavy heat sink on the CPU. The heat sink is liable to shift relative to the CPU when the assembly is subjected to vibration or shock during use. This can adversely affect the efficiency of heat removal. The heat sink may even disengage from the CPU altogether.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] Accordingly, an object of the present invention is to provide a heat sink assembly having a retaining device which easily and securely fastens a heat sink on a heat-generating device such as an electronic package.

[0007] A further object of the present invention is to provide a heat sink assembly which has a retaining device adjustable to adapt to different applications.

[0008] In order to achieve the objects set out above, a heat sink assembly in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention comprises a heat sink, a retention frame, a rectangular fastener, four pins, and four springs. The heat sink includes a base defining four bores therein. The frame is secured to a printed circuit board around an electronic package, and defines a pair of screw holes. The pins are received through the

bores of the base and in the fastener. The springs surround the pins respectively between the base and the fastener. A pair of posts is extended through positioning holes defined in the fastener and the through holes of the heat sink, and engaged in the screw holes of the frame, thereby securing the fastener to the retention frame with the spring members pressing toward the base. The heat sink is thus easily, firmly and evenly secured to the electronic package.

[0009] Other objects, advantages and novel features of the present invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] FIG 1 is an exploded, isometric view of a heat sink assembly having a retaining device in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention, together with an electronic package mounted on a printed circuit board (PCB); and

[0011] FIG 2 is an assembled view of FIG 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0012] Referring to FIG 1, a heat sink assembly having a retaining device in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention comprises a retention frame 10, four pins 20, a heat sink 30, four springs 40 and a fastener 50. The retaining device fastens the heat sink 30 to an electronic package 70 that is mounted on a printed circuit board (PCB) 60. The electronic package 70 may for example be an integrated circuit (IC) package directly soldered on the PCB 60.

[0013] The heat sink 30 comprises a base 32, and a plurality of parallel fins 34 extending upwardly from the base 32. The base 32 comprises two exposed side portions at respective opposite sides of the plurality of fins 34. A through hole 36 is defined in a middle of each said side portion. A pair of first bores 38 is defined in respective opposite ends of each said side portion, for insertion of corresponding pins 20 therethrough.

[0014] The retention frame 10 can be secured to the PCB 60 by a plurality of fastening means such as screws (not labeled). A rectangular opening 12 is defined in a central portion of the retention frame 10 for receiving the electronic package 70 therein. A pair of standoffs 14 depends from respective opposite ends of each of opposite sides of the retention frame 10, for contacting the PCB 60 and supporting the retention frame 10 thereon. Four second bores 18 are defined in four corners of the retention frame 10 respectively, for insertion of the pins 20 therethrough. A pair of flanges 82 extends upwardly from respective opposite side edges of the retention frame 10, for facilitating positioning of the heat sink 30 on the retention frame 10. Each flange 82 outwardly forms a ridge 86 at an upper edge thereof. A pair of screw holes 16 is defined in the retention frame 10 at respective opposite sides of the opening 12. Each screw hole 16 lies equidistantly between the opposite flanges 82.

[0015] The fastener 50 is integrally formed as a single frame-like piece. The fastener 50 comprises a pair of opposite end walls 52. A pair of locating holes 58 is defined in respective opposite ends of each end wall 52. An annular step 59 is integrally formed in each end wall 52 inside each locating hole 58. A positioning hole 56 is defined in a middle of each end wall 52 between the locating holes 58, for insertion of a corresponding post 90 therethrough. Each post 90 has a threaded distal end for engaging in a corresponding screw hole 16, thereby attaching the fastener 50 to the retention frame 10.

[0016] Referring also to FIG 2, in assembly, the pins 20 are fittingly inserted through the second bores 18 of the retention frame 10. Then the retention frame 10 is secured to the PCB 60 with the screws (not labeled). The CPU 70 is thus received in the opening 12 of the retention frame 10. The heat sink 30 is placed between the flanges 82 of the retention frame 10, with the pins 20 inserting through the first bores 38 of the heat sink 30. The heat sink 30 is thus positioned on the retention frame 10.

[0017] The springs 40 are placed over portions of the pins 20 that protrude above said side portions of the base 32 of the heat sink 30. The fastener 50 is mounted on the heat sink 30 around the fins 34. The locating holes 58 of the fastener 50 are aligned with the pins 20. The posts 90 are inserted through the positioning holes 56 and through holes 36, and engaged in the screw holes 16 of the retention frame 10. Simultaneously, the pins 20 are fittingly received through the locating holes 58 of the fastener 50. The springs 40 are thus sandwiched between said side portions of the base 32 and the steps 59 of the fastener 50. The springs 40 cooperatively provide evenly distributed pressing forces on the base 32. In addition, the pins 20 prevent transverse movement of the heat sink 30 relative to the electronic package 70. The heat sink 30 is thus easily, firmly and evenly secured to the electronic package 70. If needed, the pressing forces on the base 32 can be adjusted by adjusting the extent to which the posts 90 are engaged in the screw holes 16. This enables the heat sink assembly to be readily adapted to different applications.

[0018] In disassembly, the posts 90 are disengaged from the screw holes 16. The heat sink 30 is then easily and safely detached from the electronic package 70.

[0019] It is to be understood, however, that even though numerous characteristics and advantages of the present invention have been set forth in the foregoing description, together with details of the structure and function of the invention, the disclosure is illustrative only,

and changes may be made in detail, especially in matters of shape, size, and arrangement of parts within the principles of the invention to the full extent indicated by the broad general meaning of the terms in which the appended claims are expressed.